Open in app ↗ Sign up Sign in

Medium Search Write

Climate Change: The Angry Beast

Margaret Allen Follow 2 min read · Mar 9, 2019

52

It's not about what we *can* do about climate change, but what we *must* do

What the hell are we doing not doing enough? We all have skin in this devastating game and yet, as the first person to coin the term "Global Warming," Wallace Broecker, said, "The climate system is an angry beast and we are poking it with sticks."

The kids have had enough of our sticks. Consider 16 year old Greta Thunberg who is putting us adults to shame with our dilatory laziness, failure to act, and unwillingness to make sacrifices. When told recently, by UK Prime Minister Theresa May no less, that her galvanizing school walkouts were a distraction that "wastes lesson time," young Greta acidly replied that "Political leaders have wasted 30 years of inaction. And that is slightly worse."

Photo credit: Elisabeth Ubbe for The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/learning

Although the scale of transformation is massive, we have to insist that our political leaders make the big changes needed to eliminate our reliance on fossil-fuels. Left alone, they won't care for us, perfectly, like mommy and daddy, at the end of the world. Scientists and engineers agree that it is entirely possible to convert to clean energy; "the only reason not to … is political inertia and the influence of the existing fossil-fuel industry." The Green New Deal emphasizes the urgency of large-scale action, and its ambitious plans are the only way to solve the problem.

Get Margaret Allen's stories in your inbox

Join Medium for free to get updates from this writer.

Enter your email

Subscribe

Remember me for faster sign in

But we can't depend on politicians and we shouldn't rely on children. The fat cats and powerful demagogues that rule us will be the last to suffer. The poor and disenfranchised will be the first. We, ourselves, must be willing to make

the relatively-small sacrifices necessary to stop the devastating damage we have caused.

Everyone, by now, has had the email saying that climate change will kill us. We are already being made sick by relentless degradation of the land, sea, and the air we breathe. Droughts, floods, fires and freezes, starvation and thirst, disease and brutal mass migration will eventually affect us all (if it hasn't already), and every single one of us simply has to stop our unbridled consumerism, and play our part in putting a stop to this madness.

As individuals, most of us are trying, taking some laudable steps but, really, all we are doing is poking at the problem with sticks.

If you live in the US, support the Green New Deal!! Nothing less will help us turn the corner.

Climate Change | Politicians | Greta Thunberg | Green New Deal

Written by Margaret Allen

50 followers · 85 following

An Englishwoman in California, writer, teacher of medicine, likes chickens, bees, and vegetables. Supports the Green New Deal. Tries to keep her language clean.

Follow